

Jessica True

Hi my name is Jessica True; I'm 16 years old and a junior at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford. I'd like to start with a quote from the Bible, "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him: (Ezekiel 18: 20)

Like the bible stated thousands of years ago, why should we children have to bear the consequences for our parent's actions? I am a victim of domestic abuse. Unlike many cases, my mom was strong enough to support me and my 3 siblings before and after the termination of my father's parental rights. We struggled. My mom worked her hardest making as much as possible to make ends meet. She was always trying to balance our needs with her income. Just putting food on the table or heating our house, paying the electric bill or buying us clothes could be challenging, not to mention the activities.

While my mom provided me with opportunities many other parents in our situation wouldn't have been able to provide. I still had to miss out on things like piano lessons. My mom just couldn't afford them, my teacher told my mom I was a natural, one of the best students he had had, but that ended with the loss of child support. Also I missed out on participating regularly in sports. I did some things here and there, but it was hard to keep a sport going with my mom balancing the bills. I couldn't always have birthday parties or sleepovers because we didn't have enough money. I don't always have the things most children can have, of course thanks to the choices of my father.

Unlike my mom there are many families who can't do it on their own. Why should they live in danger, being physically or sexually abused for being poor? When terminating a parent's right. The parent who will support the children on their own have to prove they can financially support their children, because after the termination, the terminated parent is alleviated from their responsibility to pay child support. If the parent isn't found financially stable, they can't terminate right leaving themselves and the children in danger.

As a victim, better yet, survivor, I can't possibly expect my mom to pay for 4 children's education and her own retirement, therefore when it comes time, it will be me or a sibling of mine taking care of her in old age because she will do everything in her power to give us the opportunity to succeed and spend what she has on our college, little as it may be, yet again we will all be paying for the choices of my father. I had some difficulties when my parents first divorced. Luckily for me and my siblings, my mom could get us help; we all saw a social worker and put it all in the past. Some kids aren't this lucky, just to be able to get over their abuse from the past, because they lack the ability to be supported. They won't be able to just get past it if they are trapped in this violent environment. It will just make them more emotionally unstable and possibly too late for help, all because they couldn't have the financial support of the terminated parent after the termination. Bad behavior should not be rewarded, termination because of abuse

should be considered a part of the consequence not a financial reward for criminal behavior.